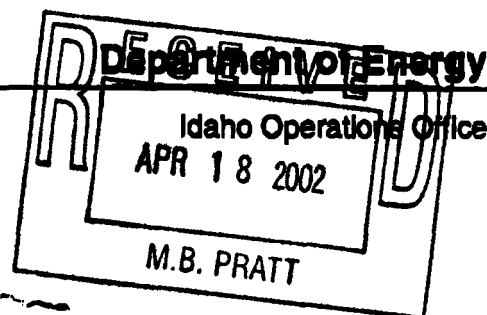


United States Government

memorandum

MILK PRATT



Date: April 18, 2002

Subject: Approval of Critical Decision (CD-3a), Early procurement and site utilities work for OU 7-10 Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM) Project located at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) (EM-INTEC-02-021)

To: Warren E. Bergholz, Jr., Acting Manager

Through: Jerry Lyle, Assistant Manager, Environmental Management
Kathleen Hain, Director, Environmental Restoration Program

From: Peter J. Dirkmaat, *Peter J. Dirkmaat*
Project Manager, OU 7-10 GEM Project

Issue:

Detailed design of the GEM project has advanced to a point that supports early procurement of some facility equipment and installation of site utilities. This stage, termed CD-3a, will proceed to the acquisition phase for the following items: earthwork including temporary access ramps and roads; utility tie-ins including electrical and firewater; the Retrieval Confinement Structure (RCS) and the Packaging Glovebox Fissile Monitoring System.

The estimated value for this phase is \$1.42M. ESAAB approval of phase 3a, will allow site preparations and installation of utilities during the summer 2002 construction season.

Background:

The OU 7-10 GEM Project will demonstrate safe retrieval of transuranic waste from a specified and preselected area of OU 7-10 (Pit-9) in the Subsurface Disposal Area.

CD-0 for this project was approved October 2001, and reaffirmed by ID Acting Manager on February 11, 2002. CD-1, approve baseline range and begin detailed design, was approved by the ID Acting Manager February 13, 2002. The mission need for this project has not changed and will further be substantiated by the Pit-9 settlement agreement now being finalized between EPA, the State of Idaho, and DOE.

Because the proposed early procurements include one safety significant system, i.e., the Retrieval Confinement System, a programmatic safety review board was convened to review the contractor's Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis (PDSA). This review, conducted by federal staff over a five-week period, concluded in their Safety Evaluation Report (SER) that the PDSA, as revised, was sufficient to proceed to final design and procurement. Additionally, DOE-ID's Independent Senior Safety Review Panel (SSRP) reviewed the SER and concluded that overall safety approach for the GEM project was adequate and that safety-related procurements of the safety-related items could proceed. The SSRP also provided comments to be resolved in the Final Documented Safety Analysis.

In compliance with DOE Order 413.3 requirements, a DOE-ID Independent Project Review (IPR) team was established to review the technical adequacy and readiness to proceed into procurement for the phase 3a items. The IPR report, dated April 4, recommended the GEM project proceed with CD-3a efforts. The IPR's Project Definition Rating Index of 849 (98% of the maximum available points) indicates sufficient maturity to proceed. The IPR did note that the Project Execution Plan, while being used as a working document was not yet specifically approved by DOE. The project plans to revise the Project Execution Plan prior to CD 2/3. There are no open project execution items or issues which pertain to the CD 3a scope of work. A formally chartered and approved Integrated Project Team (IPT) is also pending.

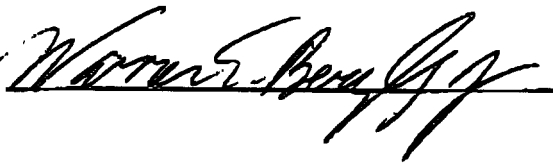
Minutes of the ESAAB meeting, held April 16, 2002, are attached to this memorandum.

A revised Environmental Checklist, RWMC-99-002 Revision 1, for this project was completed and issued since CD-1. A determination of categorical exclusion is promulgated in the checklist. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is required prior to any earthwork activities; this plan has been finalized and approved.

Sensitivity:

Settlement of the OU 7-10 dispute between DOE, EPA, and the State of Idaho, has not yet been achieved; however, the GEM project demonstration retrieval is expected to be a centerpiece of any settlement agreement.

Policy Impact: Beginning of GEM project construction work in the summer of 2002, will provide evidence to the regulator agencies that DOE is proceeding on OU 7-10 efforts in good faith.

Approve  Date 4/18/02

Disapprove _____ Date _____

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Meeting Notes**Critical Decision 3a ESAAB For Pit 9
Glovebox Excavator Method Project****April 16, 2002****Attendees:**

Warren Bergholz, DOE-ID
Jerry Lyle, DOE-ID
Enoch Miles, DOE-ID
Lisa Green, DOE-ID
Pete Dirkmaat, DOE-ID
Katie Hahn, DOE-ID

Chris Ott, DOE-ID
Faye Alexander, DOE-ID
Nolan Jensen, DOE-ID
Bob Stallman, DOE-ID
Gerald Bowman, DOE-ID
Ron King, DOE-ID

Mike Pratt, BBWI
Steve Davies, BBWI
Frank Russo, BBWI

Key Commitments/Actions:

1. BBWI will work with DOE reviewers that provided comments (both SSRP and SER) on the Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis (PDSA) over the next several days to ensure that the comments are understood in their entirety and being worked to resolution effectively.
2. There is an expectation, given the level of importance and visibility of this project, that all issues are raised through the correct process and in a timely manner. It is also expected that issues not be allowed to languish at the staff level too long, but that they are raised to the management level of visibility as quickly as needed to bring about timely resolution. Certain issues are to be discussed at biweekly project meetings and tracked in written issues log. They include:
 - a. Breach of confinement issues – Even though a general resolution path has been established, given the inherent risk and sensitivity of this issue, details of the resolution need to be tracked to ground through the engineering process and good communication maintained.
 - b. Fissile Material Detection Process
 - c. BNFL acceptance of waste
 - d. Getting waste accepted and down to WIPP
3. BBWI will follow up with Paul Kearns (R&D) too ensure there is a firm commitment on R&D's part to provide needed resources to this project.
4. DOE-ID will ensure there is correct language in the grant to the state of Idaho to ensure they are providing adequate resources to the project, e.g., for permit modifications.

Result

No Issues were raised that will prevent the project from moving forward and providing the CD 3a approval package to the Acquisition Official for signature.

Distribution:

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